

Page Denied

Next 1 Page(s) In Document Denied

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Talking Points for the DCI
(16 November 1983)

Israeli Retaliatory Strikes in Lebanon

Israeli airstrikes were carried out today at 0920 Beirut time against a training camp near Janta in the Bekaa Valley. The camp reportedly was operated by Iranians and pro-Iranian Lebanese Shia fighters. Shortly afterwards, the Israel Defense Force radio announced the attack and said that all planes had returned safely.

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-- [redacted] one large building, six bunkers, and 20 vehicles were destroyed. The Israelis estimate that 50-60 people were killed or wounded.

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-- According to press reports, ambulances rushed dozens of victims to hospitals in Baalabakk and "several" Iranian Revolutionary Guards were among the victims. Fire engines reportedly battled the blaze in the camp for three hours after the attack.

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-- Unconfirmed press reports mention that a radio tower was destroyed in the attack. [redacted]

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There has been no comment yet in the Arab world on the Israeli raid. As of evening today in Damascus, the Syrian media had not reported the attack, and their reaction--as in the case of the previous Israeli retaliatory strike--is likely to be low key when it comes. [redacted]

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